

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 AEC-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIEP-01 COME-00 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INT-05

L-02 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-03 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03

/111 W

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R 131544Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7977

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 1446

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, NI

SUBJECT: ENERGY: NIGERIAN REACTION TO U.S. POLICY STATEMENTS

REF: STATE 024546

1. IN RELAXED CONVERSATION FEBRUARY 11, PERMANENT SECRETARY
FOR MINES AND POWER PHILIP ASIODU TOLD ME THAT, IN CONTRAST
TO THE REACTIONS OF SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES, HE TENDS TO
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DISCOUNT THE RECENT PRONOUNCEMENTS OF SECRETARY KISSINGER

AND OTHER SPOKESMEN FOR THE USG AS BEING PRIMARILY INTENDED FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION SO THAT THE ADMINISTRATION CAN BE SEEN TO BE TOUGH.

2. HE SAID THE SECRETARY'S PRESS CLUB SPEECH WAS "HOLLOW" BECAUSE THE USG "CAN'T DELIVER," I.E., WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO GET OTHER CONSUMERS TO AGREE TO FLOOR PRICES AND WILL BE UNABLE DEVELOP ENOUGH ALTERNATE SOURCES OF ENERGY IN THIS CENTURY.

3. ASIODU SAID HE HAD CLOSELY READ THE BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW AND APPRECIATED ITS NUANCES, BUT HE STILL HAD TO BELIEVE THAT THE REFERENCE TO THE USE OF FORCE IN THE EVENT OF STRANGULATION WAS INTENTIONAL. HE SAID IT WAS VERY UNFORTUNATE FOR THE US EVEN TO HINT AT THE USE OF FORCE IN TODAY'S CHARGED WORLD.

4. ASIODU CONFESSED THAT THERE IS PROBABLY AS MUCH DISARRAY AMONG PRODUCERS AS AMONG CONSUMERS, BUT HE EXPECTS THIS WILL IMPROVE AT PREPARATORY MEETING FOR OPEC SUMMIT LATER THIS MONTH (WHICH HE WILL ATTEND). AS FOR THE EVENTUAL CONFERENCE OF PRODUCING AND CONSUMING COUNTRIES, HE SEES NO POSSIBILITY OF SUCCESS UNLESS CONSUMERS ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS INDEXING OF OIL PRICES TO THOSE OF MANUFACTURED GOODS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, SPEECHES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LAGOS01446
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750054-0776
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750247/aaaabpqc.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 024546
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <07 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ENERGY: NIGERIAN REACTION TO U.S. POLICY STATEMENTS
TAGS: ENRG, NI, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006